

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph bridging specification pages 21 and 22 with the following replacement paragraph:

Fig. 6 is a schematic block diagram illustrating modified data buffer 600 comprising an exemplary raw data buffer ~~525~~530 configured to store “raw” (write) data associated with an incoming write operation. A first portion of the raw data buffer ~~525~~530 is overwritten with a novel buffer check control structure 700, described further below. In accordance with the illustrative embodiment of the present invention, the buffer check control structure 700 overwrites the first portion of the raw data buffer ~~525~~530 to enable detection of leaked buffer write operations across file system consistency points (CP). Overwriting the raw buffer is a destructive operation that destroys the overwritten data, e.g., the first portion of the data, rendering the data (and buffer) inaccessible. Adherence to such destructive overwriting for all write operations directed to the storage appliance, will result in corrupted user data and/or system files. To prevent such corruption, the present invention is directed to controlled and selective raw data areas, such as specified volumes and/or qtrees. These selected areas may be utilized for testing purposes. Thus, write operations directed to a test volume may be destructively labeled, whereas write operations to an active and in-use volume are not destructively labeled using the teachings of the present invention.

Please replace the first full paragraph of specification page 22 with the following replacement paragraph:

It should be noted that in alternate embodiments, the buffer check control structure may be prepended to the beginning or annexed to the end of the raw data buffer-~~525~~ 530. In such embodiments, the buffer check control structure does not overwrite any of the data contained within the raw data buffer-~~525~~ 530. During write allocation using a non-destructive label, the appropriate write allocation process (e.g., WALLOC 285) within the file system removes (“strips off”) the buffer check control structure before the raw data is written to disk. In such embodiments, the labeling of write operations with the buffer check control structure is not destructive and therefore may be applied to all volumes and/or qtrees to provide improved reliability by ensuring the detection of buffer leakage from one CP to another CP.